PERCEPTIONS ON VACCINATION

Opinions of U-Reporters on overall vaccination and COVID-19 vaccine

U-REPORT KOSOVO
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The UNICEF Kosovo Office in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Health launched a U-Report poll on December 2020 on the perceptions around vaccines and COVID-19 vaccine acceptance.

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted the Kosovo society on many levels. Since the first cases of infections with COVID-19 were registered in Kosovo on March 2020, the total number of confirmed cases has reached 54,839 with 48,046 reported recoveries and 1,392 deaths (as of January 14th).

Different measures were introduced to contain the virus, including nationwide lockdowns and school closures. While children are not the face of this pandemic, they risk being among its biggest victims, as children’s lives are nonetheless being changed in profound ways. All children, adolescents and youth, are being affected, in particular by the socio-economic impacts and, in some cases, by mitigation measures that may inadvertently do more harm than good. The wider social and economic impact of the pandemic will in the long term have a significant impact on children’s right to health, education, protection and psychological well-being.
Who are U-Reporters?

1,454 respondents (95% response rate)

- 49% were female
- 51% were male
- 60% were under 24 years
- Most of them fall between age 15-19 years
43% of U-Reporters consider that vaccines are safe overall and 62% young people think that vaccines are effective in preventing infectious diseases.

Around half of U-Reporters (54%) usually receive information on vaccines through internet (social media, google search, blogs). Other important source of information is TV/Radio.

Two in three U-Reporters (66%) have heard negative information about vaccines.

Less than half of U-Reporters (40%) would take COVID-19 vaccine if available, with 25% stating they would not take the vaccine and 35% are indecisive. The most frequent reasons for refusal are lack of information on vaccines and safety concerns.
Overall, I think vaccines are safe

Only 43% of U-Reporters agree that vaccines are safe overall.

- **Strongly Agree**: 21%
- **Agree**: 22%
- **Neither Agree Nor Disagree**: 39%
- **Disagree**: 9%
- **Strongly Disagree**: 9%
Overall, I think vaccines are effective in preventing infectious diseases.

62% of young people agree that vaccines are effective in preventing infectious diseases.

- 34% agree
- 26% neither agree nor disagree
- 7% disagree
- 5% strongly disagree
I believe vaccines’ benefits outweigh the potential (and rare) side effect

55% of U-Reporters agree that vaccines’ benefits outweigh the potential (and rare) side affects
Where do you usually hear from, or get information about vaccines?

54% of young people usually receive information on vaccines through internet (social media, google search, blogs)

- TV or Radio: 23%
- Social media: 35%
- Friends/Peers: 8%
- Internet (not social media, sources as blogs or google search): 19%
- My parents: 2%
- Health Professionals: 13%
- Religious Leaders: 1%

Note: The percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
Have you ever received or heard negative information about vaccinations?

66% of U-Reporters have heard negative information about vaccines.
Would you consider getting a COVID-19 vaccine when one is available?

40% of U-Reporters would take COVID-19 vaccine (if available).

- Yes: 40%
- No: 25%
- I don't know: 35%
Why would you not consider getting a COVID-19 vaccine?

Not enough information, safety concerns and COVID-19 not considered a severe disease are the most frequent responses (84%).

- I do not have enough information about the vaccine: 33%
- I do not think this new vaccine will be safe: 29%
- I think Covid-19 is not a severe disease, so it is better to develop natural immunity by catching the virus: 22%
- Other reasons: 7%
- I think young people are not affected by COVID-19, so I do not need to get this vaccine: 5%
- I do not think this new vaccine will be effective: 4%
How informed do you consider yourself on COVID-19?

44% consider themselves informed
53% consider themselves somewhat informed
What is U-Report?

U-Report is a free and anonymous digital tool, created by UNICEF Global, where registered users – U-Reporters – can anonymously speak out on topics that are important to them and their community. U-Report directly interacts with young people ages 15 and higher, with a focus on those ages 15 to 24, who sign up to become U-Reporters through simple polls sent via Facebook Messenger or Viber.

The U-Report polls are focused on topics and challenges that are most relevant to U-Reporters in their respective communities, and they give youth the means and a channel for stating and discussing their opinions. U-Report data offers valuable insight into young people’s perceptions and priorities, and it serves as a gauge of public opinion on issues important to them.

DISCLAIMER: U-Report is designed as an anonymous online platform, and therefore data generated by U-Report polls should not be used to replace a nationally representative survey and its findings cannot be generalized as a representative data source of the targeted population.